

# MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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Director's Office  
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## **Columbus Department of Public Safety Announces Internet Purchase Exchange Zones**

In response to concerns about personal safety while making a sale or purchase utilizing an online auction or person to person exchange, the City of Columbus, Department of Public Safety has created five (5) monitored Internet Purchase Exchange Zones around the City. These zones will be located at Columbus Division of Police (CPD) Sub-stations.

Residents will be able to conduct their transaction at any of the five locations knowing that the exchange is being recorded with a City-owned video surveillance camera. In addition, since the locations involve a police sub-station, marked vehicles could be expected to be on location at any time.

The five locations are as follows:

- Station # 1 at Karl Road and Morse Road (Far North)
- Station # 3 at 5400 Olentangy River Road (Northwest)
- Station # 20 at 2500 Park Crescent Drive (Far East)
- Station # 5 at 1371 Cleveland Avenue (Northeast)
- Station # 10 at 4215 Clime Road (Far Southwest)

Each location will be signed with a placard within view of the surveillance camera. Users are encouraged to conduct their transaction near the sign for maximum coverage.

Deputy Chief Thomas Quinlan said "When arranging a meeting with a person utilizing the Internet, situational awareness is very important to safety. A police substation monitored with city cameras is a much safer situation than agreeing to meet a stranger at a location the other



person selects. Police encourage the public to be in control of the situation by utilizing the Internet Purchase Exchange Zone for their safety.”

The information will be posted on the Columbus Division of Police website for users reference at <https://www.columbus.gov/SafeExchangeZones/>.

